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INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN HUMANITIES

STAFF AND RESEARCH SEMINARS

April 2017–March 2018

ACADEMIC STAFF

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES

Professors

- FUJII, Masato, Ph.D. (U. of Helsinki), *Formation and Transmission of the Vedic Texts*
IWAKI, Takuji, D.Litt. (Kansai U.), *Japanese Society in the 19th Century*
KAGOTANI, Naoto, D.Econ. (Osaka City U.), *Asian Merchants' Networks and Japan's Industrialization*
KOSEKI, Takashi, Ph.D. (Hitotsubashi U.), *Modern History of Britain and Ireland*
OKADA, Akeo, D.Litt. (Osaka U.), *European Music History in the 19th and 20th Centuries*
SATO, Junji, D.Litt. (U. of Tokyo), *Technology, Nature and (Post-)Modernity: A Philosophical Inquiry*
TAKAGI, Hiroshi, D.Litt. (Hokkaido U.), *Cultural History of the Modern Emperor System of Japan*
TAKEZAWA, Yasuko, Ph.D. (U. of Washington), *Theories of Race and Ethnicity*
TANAKA, Masakazu, Ph.D. (U. of London), *Violence, Sexuality, and Religion in Modern South Asia, Japan, and Europe*

Associate Professors

- FUJIHARA, Tatsushi, Ph.D. (Kyoto U.), *Reconstruction of Agricultural History*
ISHII, Miho, Ph.D. (Kyoto U.), *Anthropological Study of Religion, Environment, and Corporeality in Africa and South Asia*
ITO, Junji, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *Bandits in Modern Transcaucasia, Especially Georgia*
MORIMOTO, Atsuo, Ph.D. (U. of Blaise Pascal), *French Symbolism and Literary Modernity*
OHJI, Kenta, D.Litt. (U. of Paris-Ouest), *Historical Discourse and Political Thought in Early Modern Europe*
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TAKASHINA, Erika, Ph.D. (U. of Tokyo), *Modern Japanese Arts and the West*
TSUIKI, Kosuke, Ph.D. (U. of Paris VIII), *Considerations on Psychoanalytical Knowledge from the Perspective of the History of Thought*

Senior Lecturer

- HOLCA, Irina, D.Litt. (Osaka U.), *Realism, Media, and Empire in the Works of Shimazaki Toson and Other Modern Japanese Men of Letters*

Assistant Professors

- FUJII, Toshiyuki, Ph.D. (Kyoto U.), *Enlightenment and Literature: the Location of Humanity in Adorno's Aesthetic*
- IKEDA, Sanae, M.A. (Kyoto U.), *Land Ownership of the Japanese Imperial Household*
- KIKUCHI, Akira, D.Litt. (Osaka U.), *Socio-cultural History of Modern Japanese Ethnography*
- OGAWA, Sawako, D.Litt. (Waseda U.), *History of Theatre and Film Arts in the 19th and 20th Centuries*
- ONO, Yasuteru, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *The Korean National Movement and East Asia in the Modern Era*
- TANAKA, Yuriko, Ph.D. (U. of Tokyo), *History of Modern Medicine and Philosophy of the Body*
- TOKUNAGA, Yu, M.A. (U. of Southern California and Kyoto U.), *Transpacific History of Interethnic Relations between Japanese and Mexican Immigrants in the United States*

DEPARTMENT OF ORIENTAL STUDIES

Professors

- ASAHARA, Tatsuro, *Bronze Inscriptions of the Pre-Qin Age*
- FUNAYAMA, Toru, *Scholastic Tradition and Practice in Indian and Chinese Buddhism*
- IKEDA, Takumi, *Descriptive and Historical Study on Sino-Tibetan Languages in Southwest China*
- INABA, Minoru, *History of Early Islamic Expansion to the East*
- INAMI, Ryoichi, *Cultural History of the Qing Period*
- ISHIKAWA, Yoshihiro, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *History of the Chinese Communist Party*
- IWAI, Shigeki, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *History of Chinese Institutions*
- OKAMURA, Hidenori, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *Archaeological Study of Ancient China*
- TAKEDA, Tokimasa, *Chinese Science from the Perspective of the History of Thought*
- WITTERN, Christian, Ph.D. (Goettingen U.), *Knowledgebase for Buddhist Studies, with Chan-Buddhism as an Example*
- YAGI, Takeshi, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *Bureaucracy in the Goryeo Dynasty*
- YASUOKA, Koichi, D.Eng. (Kyoto U.), *Methodology of Character Codes*

Associate Professors

- FURUMATSU, Takashi, *The Multi-state System of Eastern Eurasia in the 10th to 13th Centuries*
- INAMOTO, Yasuo, *History of Buddhist Art in East Asia*
- KOGACHI, Ryuichi, D.Litt. (U. of Tokyo), *History of Commentary on Classics in China*
- MIYAKE, Kiyoshi, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *Institutional History of the Qin and Han Dynasties*
- MUKAI, Yusuke, *Exploring Chinese Culture through Historical Archaeology*
- MURAKAMI, Ei, D.Litt. (U. of Tokyo), *Changes in Socio-economic Institutions in China during the Modern Era*
- NAGATA, Tomoyuki, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *Literary Theory in Medieval and Early Modern China*
- NAKANISHI, Tatsuya, D.Litt. (Osaka U.), *Historical Study of Islam in China*

Assistant Professors

- FUJII, Noriyuki, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *History of the Bureaucratic System in Ancient and Medieval China*
- MIYA, Noriko, D.Litt. (Kyoto U.), *Cross-cultural Exchanges in the Mongol Period*
- MORIOKA, Tomohiko, Ph.D. (JAIST), *Architecture of Text Representation Based on Information about Character Definition*
- TAKAI, Takane, *History of Chinese Furniture*

Program-Specific Assistant Professors

MEGURO, Kyoko, Ph.D. (Kyoto Prefectural U.), *State Rituals in the Qin and Han Dynasties*

MORIKAWA, Hiroki, Ph.D. (U. of Tokyo), *Intellectuals and Politics in Republican China*

VISITING SCHOLARS

Program-Specific Professors

VITA, Silvio (Professor, Kyoto U. of Foreign Studies), *History of Ideas, Chinese and Japanese Buddhism* (Jul. 2007–)

FUJIMOTO, Yukio (Emeritus Professor, Toyama U.), *Korean Linguistics/ Bibliographical Studies* (Apr. 2012–)

IKARI, Yasuke (Emeritus Professor, Kyoto U.), *Study of the Vādhūla Śrāutasūtra* (Apr. 2015–)

Visiting Professors

WU, Jen-shu (Research fellow, Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica), *Preliminary Study of Local Consumption and Social Change in the 19th Century: The Case of the Ba County in Sichuan Province during the Tongzhi Reign* (Feb. 2017–)

ZWIGENBERG, Ran (Assistant Professor, Pennsylvania State U.), *Psychiatry and the Atomic Bomb* (Apr.–Aug. 2017)

ZHANG, Qiong (Associate Professor, Wake Forest U.), *The Weathermen of China: Changing Skyscapes and Meteorological Discourses in the Late Ming and Early Qing* (May–Aug. 2017)

PFERSMANN, Otto (Director of Studies, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales), *The Impact of the Weakness of Legal Epistemology on Legal Systems in Comparative Perspective* (Aug. 2017–Feb. 2018)

CHIN, Pei-Yi (Professor, National Taiwan Normal U.), *Development of Canonical Studies: History Research in Modern Japan and Its Impact on China* (Sep. 2017–Feb. 2018)

HAKUBI RESEARCHERS

(Kyoto University, the Hakubi Project: <http://www.hakubi.kyoto-u.ac.jp/eng/eng.html>)

Program-Specific Associate Professors

MAK, Bill, Ph.D. (Peking U.), *Historical Transmission of Indian Astral Science in East and Southeast Asia*

AMANO, Kyoko, Ph.D. (Freiburg U.), *The Language and Socio-cultural Background of the Ancient Indian Ritual Literature*

Program-Specific Assistant Professor

UEMINE, Atsushi, Ph.D. (Doshisha U.), *Reconstruction of Early Palaeolithic History Based on Novel Research Methods such as Lithic Observation, Excavation, and Dating*

RESEARCH SEMINARS

JOINT RESEARCH CENTER

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES ON THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE TIBETO-HIMALAYAN CIVILIZATION

(Coordinated by Kazushi IWAO, April 2015–March 2018)

This research project aims to re-evaluate the historical position of the civilization of the Tibeto-Himalayan region in the context of Eurasian history. Our team brings together the latest academic knowledge on various aspects such as social systems, religion, ritual, language, historical and long-term cultural exchanges between the Tibeto-Himalayan region and the surrounding civilizations, and analyzes these historical developments from various angles.

The Tibeto-Himalayan region has developed a unique civilization under the influence of the surrounding prior civilizations. The assimilation of Buddhism made Tibetan civilization more powerful, and since then it has widely expanded its influence towards the Mongolian plateau and Eastern Asia. Even after the middle of the 20th century, when PRC annexed the region, it has maintained its influence, reaching Europe and the United States. It is necessary to consider how the Tibetan civilization gained its power and flexibility, and also trace how it came into conflict and later found ways to be harmonized with the surrounding civilizations. To clarify these issues, our project will analyze the various aspects of the multiple contacts between the Tibeto-Himalayan region and other civilizations.

RECONSTRUCTING POST WWII JAPANESE FILM HISTORY THROUGH ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVES

(Coordinated by Kenji TANIGAWA, April 2016–March 2019)

Film Studies in Japan tend to focus on textual analyses performed by researchers from various fields of the humanities, such as aesthetics or literature. The approach to films from the point of view of social sciences, such as studies of film industry, cultural systems, cultural policies, or the effect on the audience, is currently lacking. Before film started being understood as art, it developed as “show business” or as entertainment, and how a film was made, how it was shown to the audience, and how that audience received it are matters of equal importance as the textual analysis of the film. Researchers from the humanities usually focus on the film director or cinematographer, but the contribution of scripters, sword fighting choreographers, production designers, as well as distributors, publicity staff, theater staff, etc. to the film business should also be taken into consideration. The existence of the “movie fan,” as the subject at the receiving end of the film is also important. This research project aims to shed light on the characteristics of the development of film culture, focusing on its social and economic aspects, through archiving the experience of the people who participated in the creation of film culture in various forms.

FOUCAULDIAN STUDIES: REASSESSMENT AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HUMAN SCIENCES

(Coordinated by Yoshiyuki KOIZUMI, April 2017–March 2020)

At the center of Michel Foucault’s colossal work, whose corpus is nowadays almost completed, one finds his attempts at a historical criticism of the “human sciences” originating in Western modernity.

Foucault's work, which lies at the intersection of reviews of empirical research and philosophical speculation, has a wide political and practical range, which is not reducible to simple epistemology; it constitutes an indispensable reference in human and social sciences, the value of which is more and more important in today's world.

Yet, among the attempts to apply Foucauldian methodology in one's own field by either adopting or criticizing Foucault's position, those that analyze in depth the changes as well as the inherent consistency of his work are not numerous. Moreover, while Foucault's work is mainly examined from within the framework of the history of philosophy or the history of ideas, attempts at determining the significance of Foucault's own reexamination of the historical and contemporary movements in the different fields of "human sciences" remain rare.

The objective of this research seminar is to enable leading researchers in various fields of the "human sciences" to work together in order to bring out the significance of Foucault's work in its totality, and to determine the historical value and actual potential of Foucault's criticism of the "human sciences".

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES

WHAT IS THE 'MODERN WORLD?': A STUDY FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THE HUMANITIES
(Coordinated by Akeo OKADA and Takashi KOSEKI, April 2015–March 2018)

This project intends to further the academic achievements of the previous project, 'A Transdisciplinary Study of the First World War', and to examine them in the larger contexts of modern/ 20th century history. As a foundational moment of the 'modern world', the First World War brought about various 'modern' questions, some of which have been answered, while others remain unresolved. Some of them have changed their appearance, keeping their essence intact. Topics to be examined in our project are: the transformation of democracy, the changing relationship between globalism and localism/ nationalism, the rise of paramilitary violence and terrorism, the rise and decline of 'modern' arts, the continuity and discontinuity between '*kindai*' and '*gendai*', and so on. The subtitle of the project, 'from the viewpoint of humanities', implies an ontological question, that is: in the age following 'the crisis of European sciences' (Edmund Husserl), can humanities effectively tackle the questions posed by the 'modern world'?

BRAHMANISM AND HINDUISM: CHANGE AND CONTINUITY IN SOUTH ASIAN SOCIETY AND RELIGION

(Coordinated by Masato FUJII, April 2016–March 2019)

Brahmanism and Hinduism, although the latter succeeded the former historically, have coexisted, mingled, and influenced each other as two fundamental religious and social systems in India. The present three-year research project intends to shed fresh light on change and continuity in South-Asian society and religion by studying the diachronic and synchronic relationships between Brahmanism, Hinduism and religions such as Buddhism and Jainism, which have kept a certain distance from the above-mentioned mainstream religions.

CHAIN REACTIONS AND TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE MEANINGS OF RACISM IN ASIA

(Coordinated by Yasuko TAKEZAWA, April 2016–March 2019)

Most of the literature on racism has dealt with people of color as research subjects. However, racism in Asia cannot be explained within such a color-based paradigm. For example, racism exercised by “Japanese,” i.e., non-“whites,” involves the process and mechanism of racialization of physically invisible, but marginalized groups, by making a distinction between self and other through political, economic, and legal systems. Furthermore, this combines with the ambivalent gaze towards “white” Westerners, making racism in Asia multi-layered and complex. In this collaborative research project, we study the process and mechanism of chain reactions and transformations affecting the meanings of racism in Asia, by examining intellectual and scientific discourses, popular culture and other related materials, from a cross-regional perspective. This study also aims to contribute to “yellowness studies”, which have recently emerged as a counterpart of “whiteness studies”.

A PERSPECTIVE ON UMESAO STUDIES

(Coordinated by Masakazu TANAKA, April 2015–March 2018)

This two-year long project focuses on the works of the late Tadao Umesao and his colleagues. Although Umesao's major articles and books are found in his collected works published by Chūōkōronshinsha, there are many published articles not included in the above collection. We plan to turn our attention to these articles, as well as his dialogues and discussions with other academics published in books and journals. The Institute for Research in Humanities has numerous recorded tapes of his seminars, and this project is the first attempt to analyze them in a systematic way. In addition, we will try to understand the mutual influences between Umesao and his colleagues. This project will be developed in close collaboration with the National Museum of Ethnology, founded by Umesao in 1974.

A STUDY OF THE *VĀDHŪLA ŚRAUTASŪTRA*

(Coordinated by Yasuke IKARI and Masato FUJII, April 2015–March 2018)

The main purpose of our project is the examination of the ritual manuals of the Vādhūla school of the Yajurveda, whose original manuscripts were discovered by the coordinator of this joint study in the Kerala State of South India. The texts of the Vādhūla school have previously been analyzed by scholars using only the secondary manuscripts available at the time. The discovery of the original manuscripts has drastically changed the situation, and we are now in a far better position to get the almost full picture of the original texts of the Vādhūla school. We have been preparing an edition of the fundamental texts of this school, which scholars of Vedic philology are looking forward to.

In this joint study, we will comprehensively examine the texts of two significant rituals of the Vedic Śrautasūtra, i.e. the rituals of the Soma (Agniṣṭoma) and the Construction of the Fire-altar (Agnicayana). The former is the core of the entire Vedic ritual tradition starting from the Rīg Veda, the oldest Vedic literature, while the latter represents the culmination of the history of Vedic culture, the social as well as cultural reformation and restructuring of the middle Vedic age.

Our research will be carried out by combining two types of studies: joint reading and examination of the manuscripts of the relevant portions of the *Vādhūla Śrautasūtra* (Chapters 6, 7, and 8) by all the members, and reports on important topics related to the rituals examined, made by the coordinator and the members. Our plan at the end of the joint study is to publish a critical edition and an annotated

English translation of the three chapters of the *Vādhūla Śrautasūtra* mentioned above.

EXPLORING LIFE AND CREATION: THE STUDIES OF *UMWELTEN*

(Coordinated by Tatsushi FUJIHARA and Miho ISHII, April 2017–March 2020)

By focusing on the lives, skills, interactions, and boundaries of human and nonhuman beings, this research explores a new field in the humanities. Jakob von Uexküll, a German biologist, has put forth the idea of *Umwelt*, which denotes the unique and entwined relationships between a creature and its environment. This notion presents a novel perspective by which to pluralize the ‘natural worlds’ of creatures, thus criticizing the anthropocentric idea of a sole ‘world’.

The notion of *Umwelt* has provoked broad arguments in both the natural and the human sciences. The influence of Uexküll’s work can be found, for instance, in Viktor von Weizsäcker’s influential book *Der Gestaltkreis* and also in the work of Bin Kimura. Moreover, since the 1990s, we find an interesting common trend in various fields of the humanities: studies of the environment are flourishing in history; new approaches in human-nonhuman relations are developing in anthropology; and inquiries into human-animal relations and ethology are evident in philosophy. This development shows that the humanities have now broadened their reach beyond anthropocentrism and are proposing new perspectives for exploring the lives and lived worlds of both human and nonhuman beings.

This research project, based on both philosophical arguments and concrete case studies, investigates the comprehensive issues concerning life and *Umwelten*. It deals with various critical topics, such as agriculture, natural and man-made disasters, mining developments, religious practices, illness and care, and scientific technology. Through a thorough investigation of the lives of, and interactions between human and nonhuman beings, as well as of their unique *Umwelten*, this project seeks to understand the ‘worlding’ of human beings as a part of life on the planet.

MODERN KYOTO AND CULTURE

(Coordinated by Hiroshi TAKAGI, April 2017–March 2020)

This research project will look at modern Kyoto and culture, examining their mutual relations. Kyoto, nowadays visited by more than 55 million people every year, is the most popular tourist city in the world. The city has often been described with expressions reminiscent of an elegant, aristocratic culture, such as “Kyoto, where the Japanese culture was born” or “the culture of hospitality”, which have also become the promotional lines for the relocation of the Agency of Cultural Affairs to Kyoto. Nevertheless, such images of Kyoto were clearly constructed politically and socially during the modern period. With this in mind, we would like to reconsider several topics concerning the culture of modern Kyoto, including the issue of marginality, the life of the common people, sexuality in the red-light districts and the problem of discrimination, etc. We will also investigate the political significance of culture and its relations to local communities. The project members, specialists in various fields, such as history, politics, education, social movements, economy, society, religion, knowledge, arts, cinema, literature, architecture, and garden design, among others, will step outside their areas of expertise to rethink the culture of modern Kyoto in a broader framework. Based on the results of collaborative projects that we have conducted so far, i.e., “Research on Modern Kyoto” (2003–05), “Research on Modern “Old Capital”” (2006–10), “Modern Emperor System and Society” (2011–16), we plan to initiate a joint research project, where we will approach the topic of locality from an interdisciplinary and critical perspective.

DEPARTMENT OF ORIENTAL STUDIES

A STUDY ON *WENSHI TONGYI*

(Coordinated by Ryuichi KOGACHI, April 2015–March 2018)

Zhang Xuecheng (1738–1801) was an eminent Qing Dynasty historian especially famous for the historical theory expressed in his magnum opus, *On Literature and History* (*Wenshi Tongyi*). The book clarifies the meaning of philological and historical writings in the Chinese culture from ancient times to the Qing dynasty; thus, it should be read more closely, and from the standpoint of various disciplines.

To clarify the framework of *On Literature and History*, we shall employ a multifaceted approach and thoroughly translate its “Inner Part” into Japanese, with precise annotations. This series of translations will be published in the *Tōhō gakuhō*, Kyoto.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS IN CHINA DURING THE PERIOD OF TRANSITION

(Coordinated by Ei MURAKAMI, April 2016–March 2019)

This research project examines the preservation and transformation of institutions such as customs, common sense, rules, orders, and behavioral patterns, that directed the Chinese society and economy during the period of transition (the period after the 1980s, the late Qing and the Republican period, and the late Ming and early Qing period).

China’s rapid economic growth during the last two decades, coupled with an increase in interaction among people, has brought these social and economic institutions to the fore. Despite the recent economic development, they are remarkably different from those in Europe, America, and Japan, a fact that has caused frictions between Chinese and foreigners. Therefore, in order to solve such frictions, it has become important to understand these institutions.

Simultaneously, studies on global history in the English-speaking world have stimulated interest in comparative economic history. However, these studies do not completely explain the “great divergence” between Western Europe and China after the 19th century, nor do they explain the “small divergence” between China and Japan after the middle of the 19th century. This is primarily because these studies do not fully understand the differences in social and economic institutions in China, Western Europe, and Japan, which make up the background of these “divergences.” As such, studies on social and economic institutions are becoming increasingly important.

With this in mind, our project analyzes the social and economic institutions in China during the period of transition, illustrating different models that explain the above-mentioned institutions.

EMPIRICAL RESEARCH ON DIGITAL ANALYSIS OF CLASSICAL CHINESE TEXTS

(Coordinated by Koichi YASUOKA, April 2016–March 2019)

In our recent research we have developed a method to analyze classical Chinese texts, which uses our original morphological analyzer based on MeCab. We have proposed a four-level word-class system for classical Chinese on the MeCab-based analyzer, and designed the top level of the word-class system to represent the predicate-object structure of classical Chinese. The second level is the ordinary word-class of classical Chinese, consisting of: “noun,” “pronoun,” “numeral,” “verb,” “preposition,” “adverb,” “auxiliary verb,” “particle,” and “interjection.” The third and fourth levels are word-subclasses describing the detailed behavior of the words in classical Chinese texts. We have excluded “adjective” from the

second level of our word-class system, without precisely examining the effect of lack of “adjective” for our morphological analyzer.

In this research, we will examine the effectiveness of our four-level word-class system, focusing on the “verb,” “preposition,” “adverb,” and “auxiliary verb” classes in the second level. We will also examine the validity of the third and fourth levels of our word-class system.

INTERACTION AND ACCULTURATION OF KNOWLEDGE BETWEEN THE EAST AND THE WEST: A PAN-ASIAN APPROACH TOWARD THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE IN ASIA

(Coordinated by Tokimasa TAKEDA, April 2017–March 2020)

In the pursuit of the understanding of nature, texts, artefacts and cultural knowledge from foreign lands often play a stimulating role, and in some cases bring about major conceptual breakthroughs. In the case of China, the science and technology introduced from the “Western world”, i.e., India, the Islamic world and Europe, had a profound, revolutionary effect. Through the Chinese intermediary, this body of scientific and technological knowledge was further transmitted to Korea, Japan and Vietnam, where it underwent different forms of indigenization. In pre-modern Japan, while the influence of the new culture from China continued to be felt, scientific knowledge from the Jesuit missionaries and the Dutch was directly introduced. A unique hybrid form of pre-modern Japanese scientific culture was thus formed.

This research project focuses on the Buddhist astronomy as exemplified by texts such as the *Xiuyao jing* (宿曜經), and the reception of “Western knowledge” during the late Ming and early Qing. By examining the formation and transformation of cosmology and theories on nature and life, we hope to shed light on the interaction between, and the acculturation of knowledge from the East and the West, in order to ultimately reveal the underlying structure of traditional Asian science from a pan-Asian perspective.

A STUDY ON MAO ZEDONG: FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF HUMANITIES

(Coordinated by Yoshihiro ISHIKAWA, April 2015–March 2018)

Mao Zedong’s importance has, at least on the surface, been wearing thin all over China after his death in 1976. In contemporary China, however, his legacy remains significant, affecting the patterns of thinking of the people in general, and has become a kind of icon of the anti-inequality sentiment among the people. On the other hand, the image of Mao as a commanding leader is shared by the current political leadership of China and determines the discourse about the history of the Chinese Communist Party. Although it seems that much ink has been spent on Mao, there are still many unanswered questions. In this research seminar, we shall investigate various aspects of Mao, mainly from the viewpoint of humanities, focusing on his image in history, literature, art, and so on.

FRONTIER AND TRANSFRONTIER AREAS IN PRE-MODERN EURASIA

(Coordinated by Minoru INABA, April 2015–March 2018)

Eurasia has been divided into several historical/ cultural spheres since ancient times. We can, however, observe considerably vigorous interactions and exchanges across the frontiers/ boundaries of these spheres even in the pre-modern period. It is almost certain that the trans-frontier activities, namely

the activities that brought various people, objects, and notions from beyond the frontier, provided each sphere with historical and cultural dynamism. However, it is not an easy task to explain why these spheres were essentially divided and have been maintained as separate; this is a question that may be related to the fundamental structure of human society and culture. In this research seminar, we will address issues such as the physical background of the emergence of each historical/ cultural sphere in pre-modern Eurasia, as well as how trans-frontier activities were made possible, employing viewpoints from various disciplines in order to contribute to the general understanding of the frontier.

STUDIES ON THE BUDDHIST CAVE-TEMPLES OF THE NORTHERN DYNASTIES

(Coordinated by Hidenori OKAMURA, April 2015–March 2018)

The Yungang Caves, located near the city of Datong in the Shanxi province in China, are a group of Buddhist cave-temples built in the latter half of the 5th century by the Northern Wei dynasty. Between 1938 and 1944, following the investigations of the Xiangtangshan Caves in the Hebei province and the Longmen Caves in the Henan province, the Research Institute of Oriental Culture, the predecessor of the Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University, carried out investigations of the Yungang Caves and its neighboring sites. A report on these investigations was published in the form of the voluminous *Yunkang* (1951–1956), in 16 volumes and 32 fascicles, by Mizuno Seiichi and Nagahiro Toshio. This research seminar has set about researching the visual materials and field notes collected during the above-mentioned investigations, with the goal of systematically digitizing them, actively promoting the further use of these research resources, and making them available to the public.

SOURCES OF ANCIENT CHINESE HISTORY

(Coordinated by Tatsuro ASAHARA, April 2016–March 2019)

This is an introductory seminar for those interested in studying ancient Chinese history, especially the pre-Qin period. By reading basic articles and historical sources, participants will be able to develop their understanding and increase their knowledge on the topic. They are also expected to help each other to this end.

BUDDHIST SUTRAS AND DOCTRINES FOR CHINESE LAITY

(Coordinated by Toru FUNAYAMA, April 2016–March 2020)

Chinese Buddhism achieved various developments from the 4th to the 7th centuries, which were led not only by monastics, but also by the laity, for example emperors and literati. Questions such as: “How should we evaluate the quality of lay understanding of Buddhist doctrines?” or “What limitations did the laity’s understanding of Buddhist doctrine have?” can prove surprisingly difficult to answer. Building on the achievements of research seminars on Chinese religion formerly conducted in this institute, the present research seminar sets out to carefully read materials such as *The Expanded Collection for Glorifying and Elucidating the Law* (*Guang hong ming ji*, 7th c.), in order to come up with a clear picture of lay Buddhism.

A BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESEARCH ON OLD CHINESE BOOKS PREVIOUSLY HOUSED IN THE KYOTO INSTITUTE OF THE ACADEMY OF ORIENTAL CULTURE

(Coordinated by Takeshi YAGI, April 2016–March 2021)

The Kyoto Institute of the Academy of Oriental Culture was established in 1929 using a grant-in-aid from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and it has since developed into the Department of Oriental Studies of the Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University. The Institute has inherited all the old Chinese books that were once housed in the Academy's library; details of the collection can be seen in the Catalogue of Old Chinese Books published in 1938. This collection is well known and highly valued in the academic world, particularly because it contains a series of books that once belonged to Tao Xiang, a famous bookkeeper in Tianjin, China.

Our research project reexamines the information in the Catalogue and attempts to enhance the accuracy of the KANSEKI database, an online catalogue based on the 1938 Catalogue. The project involves the creation of an additional database of the prefaces and postscripts of the books. It will also involve the collection of information about Ex-libris Ownership Stamps and their publication in pictorial books. In the near future, as part of the celebrations of the 90th and 100th anniversaries of the Institute, exhibitions will be held with the objective of reviewing and restructuring oriental studies in Japan.

FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH OF THE KANSEKI REPOSITORY

(Coordinated by Christian WITTERN, April 2016–March 2021)

The research seminar “Fundamental Topics in Digital Humanities” held from April 2013 to March 2016 produced as one of its results the preliminary release of a comprehensive repository of premodern Chinese texts based on clear philological principles, called “Kanseki Repository” (www.kanripo.org). However, due to the limited time, only a very rough draft could be produced and some important texts are still missing. This seminar will follow up on these results by improving the scope and descriptive depth of the texts and by developing exemplary methods for using the repository for answering specific research questions. Among these, support for the creation of text-critical editions and a general survey of the characters used in the Repository are on the agenda, but the actual plan will be developed by the members upon the start of the seminar.

STUDY ON THE EXCAVATED MANUSCRIPT OF THE QIN DYNASTY

(Coordinated by Kiyoshi MIYAKE, April 2016–March 2021)

In 2002, city remains dating from the Zhanguo to the Han period were excavated near the village of Liye, Longshan, Hunan province, and over 38,000 strips and boards were discovered. These strips comprise administrative documents dating from 222BCE to 208BCE. This suggests that the area around Liye, a small mountain village located near the boundary of Hunan, Hubei, and Chongqing, was incorporated into the Qin administrative system after the unification carried out by the First Emperor. In this project, we will examine these manuscripts closely, in order to shed light on the political system of the early Chinese emperor.

In addition to the Liye discoveries, we will also analyze several Qin strips of unknown origin, which had been smuggled to Hong Kong and recently (in 2003) repatriated by the Yuelu Academy of Hunan University. Several parts of this material, including calendars and records of judicial processes during the Qin, have already been published. Photos and transcriptions of the Qin statutes and ordinances

that were found among these strips will also appear soon. These materials will help us achieve our above-mentioned goal.

BUDDIST SCULPTURES AND THEIR INSCRIPTIONS FROM THE LONGMEN CAVES OF THE NORTHERN DYNASTIES

(Coordinated by Yasuo INAMOTO, April 2017–March 2020)

The Longmen Caves are one of the most important Buddhist sites in East Asia. In 1941, Mizuno Seiichi and Nagahiro Toshio from the Institute of Oriental Studies (now the Department of Oriental Studies, Institute for Research in Humanities) published the report “A Study of the Buddhist Cave-Temples at Lung-mên, Ho-nan” after conducting fieldwork in the area. The report remains relevant to all research on the Longmen Caves even today. In the 1950s, the two above-mentioned scholars also published a highly acclaimed series entitled *Yun-Kang: The Buddhist Cave-Temples of the Fifth Century A.D. in North China*, about the Yungang Caves.

Since the Qing Dynasty, there have been many studies about the enormous number of inscriptions carved in the Longmen Caves. After Mizuno and Nagahiro’s visit to the site, which was only six days long, many research topics were left for scholars to further discuss. In the development of archeology in postwar China, the comparative analysis of both textual and stylistic sources has generated new scholarly insights for future research. Yet, even within scholarship concerning the Northern Wei caves of Longmen, opinions remain sharply divided on fundamental issues such as the commissioning and the construction process of the caves and the dating of the major statues. Recently, the Institute of Oriental Studies has identified a rich collection of rubbings of the Longmen inscriptions. Our project therefore continues the Institute’s tradition of researching Buddhist cave temples, aiming to reorganize and make full use of the information gathered thus far to rethink the Northern Dynasties statues and their context. The project focuses on reconfirming the transcriptions of the inscriptions and understanding their contents. Based on the information gained in the first stage of our research, we shall consider issues such as the process of creating the caves and the style and iconography of the sculptures through a comprehensive study integrating art-historical, archeological, historical, religious, and social perspectives. In so doing, we hope to form a common foundation of knowledge that will serve as the basis for future Longmen studies.

CENTER FOR INFORMATICS IN EAST ASIAN STUDIES

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The Center for Informatics in East Asian Studies (CIEAS) was established in April 2009 by reorganizing the former Documentation and Information Center for Chinese Studies. The overall mission of the CIEAS is to carry out information science research on East Asian languages and to make historical East Asian materials accessible to researchers through new media. A variety of databases, including the Catalogue of Old Chinese Books in Japanese Libraries, are being created and constantly improved. The Annual Bibliography of Oriental Studies, which has long been published in book form, is now also available online.

RESEARCH CENTER FOR MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY CHINA (RCMCC)

<http://www.zinbun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~rcmcc/index.htm>

The Research Center for Modern and Contemporary China (RCMCC) was established in April 2007 through an agreement between Kyoto University and the National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU), part of the Inter-University Research Institute Corporation. The main mission of the RCMCC is to carry out research on the fundamental structure of modern and contemporary China from the point of view of the humanities. Research activities at the RCMCC are organized into two research groups: Research Group 1, which investigates the “Deep Structure of the Modern and Contemporary Chinese Culture”, and Research Group 2, which looks into issues concerning the “Social Foundation of the Modern and Contemporary Chinese Politics”. The RCMCC, as one of the research bases selected in the NIHU program focusing on “Contemporary Chinese Area Studies”, conducts projects in association with the other five research bases.